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SONG FOR A CHILD.

Hast thou not seen the quiet blue
That bends from out the quiet skies,
And watches thee the long day through?
It is thy mother's eyes.
Hast thou not seen the tender sun
That lights thy heaven there above,
And sends the stars when day is done?
It is thy mother's love.
Hast thou not heard each leaf and tree
Forget the daytime's heat and noise,
While sleep comes stealing over thee?
It is thy mother's voice.
—Stark Young in Scribners.

Through that decision in the Johns paving case the people of Pendleton won no victory. That Supreme Court Decision. There is a possibility they have suffered a heavy blow. Such will certainly be true if as a result of that decision the city as a whole should be forced to pay for the paving of Jackson street. That would mean that the people of the city would be forced to pay through taxation a debt that should properly be charged to Mr. Johns and others owning property on Jackson street. It would be a monstrous injustice. Stripped of all buncombe and pala-

ver that Johns suit was a simple attempt to evade payment of a just debt. He secured the paving and is now enjoying the benefits of the same. It is the class of pavement for which the people of that paving district petitioned. In the opinion of the supreme court it is a good pavement and the appellant suffered no injustice. The city acted in accord with the letter of the law and in accord with the spirit. The reversal was because of a petty error in a description—an error that was of no real consequence since a plat that was filed showed clearly the property comprising the paving district.

If that contract was valid in all its essential features and especially with reference to the question of monopoly then the paving company is in common honesty entitled to its pay. If the Warren company cannot make Mr. Johns and others pay for the pavement an effort will doubtless be made to force the city to pay the cost. That is the serious part of the proposition. Whether such a move by the company would succeed is a law question and it would be futile to guess at the outcome. The fact that the error made was committed by an officer of the city, the city engineer, might work to the benefit of the company and against the city.

Under the circumstances it will be logical for the city to ask for a rehearing and to show that the technical error in the description of Block C was of no material consequence. When that showing is made it will be astonishing if the opinion of the court is not modified. Particularly so since the facts show Justice McBride to be in error when he says the published notice does not refer to any map or plat of the paving district on file. The official notice published in this newspaper by the city referred to "the plans and specifications for the improvement of said portion of Jackson street, prepared by Geary Kimbrell, city surveyor, and filed with the city recorder on the fourth day of September, 1912, which plans and specifications are hereby particularly referred to."

Surely the supreme court of Oregon in a formal decision concerning a case involving \$18,000 will not let a hairsplitting technicality outbalance the real points involved. If so then law is a peculiar thing in Oregon; there will be a premium on craftiness and sharp practice and it will be useless for anyone to go before the court with a case based merely on law and justice.

Commenting on the new regime which began in Portland on the first of the month the Journal said: The New Order Journal said: In Portland. The Journal points with satisfaction to the new conditions at the city hall. It is a status for which this newspaper has striven for the past six years. The Journal takes especial pride because it is the only newspaper in Portland that made fight for the new charter, a fight in which it was opposed by most of the other Portland papers.

Basically, the new system is in line to be completely successful. It has already brought a new atmosphere about the city hall. There are no skulkers in the new regime as there always were somewhere in the personnel of the old system, no matter how excellent the administration. There is no public distrust of things going wrong, because of the character of men in office and because every public act must now be in the open. There is no surmise of graft, no suspicion of skulduggery, but rather a general atmosphere of confidence that the men are clean and all's well.

There is wide public faith in the appointees. Without in the slightest reflecting on some of the excellent men in the last administration, it is a fact that the standard of officialdom is raised by the passing of such as were unfit.

Mayor Albee was right yesterday in saying that a city government could scarcely begin its work more auspiciously. Five men never had so splendid an opportunity. They have the power. They have every facility in their hands. They have the confidence, backing and good will of the people. It is only by the worst kind of blundering that they can fail.

There is a vast work for them to do. There is, if they have the nerve, a splendid leadership for them to exercise. There are paving problems. There are street problems. There are lighting problems. There are economic problems. There are problems of economy by which employes shall render a dollar's worth of service for every dollar of salary.

There are problems of public order, problems of Portland's poor, problems of poverty's housing, problems of public progress and problems of human welfare.

All these things must be intelligently met, and the Journal expects the new men at the city hall to meet them.

AN HISTORIC ADDRESS

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth in this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.—Lincoln's Gettysburg address.

In notifying owners of bawdy house property that they must no longer permit their property to be used for such purposes the district attorney has acted in accord with the law and his oath of office. Under the law the owner or lessee of a house of ill fame is equally liable with the inmate. Section 2089 of the code provides as follows:

"Any person who shall keep, or set up, or suffer or permit to be kept or set up, either in a house, boat, ship or vessel, a house of ill fame, brothel or bawdy house, for the purpose of prostitution, fornication, or lewdness, in any house, room, or shop or other building whatsoever, or any boat, booth or other place of which he is the owner, lessor, lessee, or to the possession of which he is entitled, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be pun-

ished by a fine not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, or by imprisonment in the county jail not less than 30 days nor more than one year."

It goes without saying that any movement directed against commercialized vice that overlooked the owners of houses would be lacking at the most essential point. The owners constitute the trunk of the tree, the bawdy house mistresses are the branches and the unfortunate inmates merely the leaves that live for a season and die.

In his crusade against organized vice in the state of Oregon Governor West is making a clean sweep and if those who profit by vice don't like it let them try to recall him.

MUREYNOLDS' BLUNDER.

We have no doubt that there is a large measure of cheap politics in the so-called "white slave scandal" in which Attorney General McReynolds has involved the Wilson administration.

The case itself bears no relation to the "white slave" traffic that the federal statute was enacted to punish. Two girls eloped with two married men and accompanied them from California to Nevada. To all intents and purposes, this is a local crime punishable under state laws. The national government has nothing to do with it, except as the Mann "White Slave" act is perverted to cover any violation of the seventh commandment in which the parties cross a state line.

Nevertheless, the attorney general's intervention was a great blunder for which there is no excuse. If he had stopped the prosecution on the ground that it was the duty of California to punish her own scoundrels, he could readily have justified his position. But to postpone a criminal trial merely to accommodate a defendant's father who happens to be a federal office-holder is a grave abuse of official power. To be sure, republican attorney generals have done this sort of thing times without number, but the democracy was not put in charge of the government to imitate republican methods of dispensing privilege.

Mr. McReynolds merely followed the policy of his immediate successors, but it is a pernicious policy, begun under Mr. Roosevelt and designed to centralize in Washington all the machinery for the enforcement of the federal laws. During the last twelve years the attorney general have been making themselves universal judges, juries and prosecuting attorneys. They have ordered convictions. They have ordered cases discontinued. They have ordered cases advanced. In many instances the enforcement of the laws of the United States has been made a political proceeding in which the grand jury took orders from the attorney general, who took orders from the president, and the power of the national government was swung for or against the defendant as it

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happened to suit the purposes of the administration. We can conceive of no more dangerous system for destroying the administration of justice and making it a personal or a political proceeding. That is why the action of the attorney general in the California cases is indefensible. If Woodrow Wilson does nothing more than stop this tyrannical practice of the department of justice, as he has so promptly and decisively done in the present case, his election will have been worth while.—New York World.

OMINOUS NONCHALANCE. "I sentence you to two years in prison," said the judge, severely. "Well, Judge," replied Plodding Pete, "I know you are doing this to humiliate me. But I want to remind you that some very wealthy and some very talented people have been going to prison lately."—Washington Star.

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Hear the Fight Returns

Tomorrow Afternoon at the Columbia.

RITCHIE VS. RIVERS

20 Rounds for the Lightweight Championship of the World.

ANDERSON VS. CROSS

The winner of this Lightweight Contest to meet the Champion.

Ritchie-Rivers Returns start at 1:30 p. m. Anderson-Cross Returns start at 3:00 p. m.

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